

✓  
The John M. Mitchell House  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

*Allegheny Co.*

✓  
HABS No. PA 42

HABS  
PA.

2. PITBU

8-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. PA 4

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Charles M. Stotz, District Officer  
818 Bessemer Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

## THE JOHN M. MITCHELL HOUSE

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Owner John P. Moss, 12 Club Drive, Baldwin Township,  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Date of Erection After 1845, exact date not known.

Architect Not known.

Builder Not known.

Present Condition Fair to poor, due to age and lack of  
proper repairs - not much change from original  
appearance or arrangement.

Number of Stories Two and one-half.

Materials of Construction Stone foundation, brick bearing  
walls, wood interior partitions, wood floor and  
roof construction.

Other Existing Records None.

Additional Data: The House is located at No. 524 Third  
Avenue, Pittsburgh.

The ground was purchased from General James O'Hara's Executors in 1825 by John M. Mitchell, for the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars, and was held by him until 1860, when his Executor disposed of it to Isabelle Butler for Twenty-Four Hundred Dollars, including the building thereon erected. (From Deed Books in office of Recorder of Deeds for Allegheny County).

As the location is within the area totally burned over by the "Great Fire" of 1845 in Pittsburgh, it can only be assumed that the building was erected at some time between that date and its transfer in 1860, possibly during the reconstruction period immediately following; but no information is obtainable from any source on this point, nor as to the architect, builder, or anything of interest relating to the building for the period from 1860 to more recent times.

PA  
2-Pitbu  
8-

The present owner is Mr. John P. Moss who purchased the property in 1915.

The present tenant is Sun Wah Shing, retail dealer in Chinese merchandise; the adjacent district at the present time being entirely commercial, and a large percentage of the occupants of the smaller buildings, Chinese.

The building is a small two and one-half story brick structure, with pitched roof, originally a small city dwelling, and still essentially so, the Chinese retail merchant who now lives in it also adapted his business to the building with scarcely any alteration either to the interior or exterior.

Having been erected during the period following the "Great Fire" of 1845, it partakes, to a considerable degree, of the characteristics of the late Greek Revival, and is a good example of the very small, unpretentious city dwelling, of a type which has almost entirely disappeared in this vicinity. Extreme simplicity of composition and detail is its chief charm; the openings are well spaced and proportioned, and the mouldings and other details of the doorway, the simple brick cornice, and the single dormer window, offer the required relief from the severity of the facade. The brick work is laid in Flemish bond.

The plan is the simple arrangement of the small house of its period, and the refinement shown in the exterior is repeated in the simple trim, door panels and mantels of the interior. The house is well worth recording as an example of the evident taste and refinement shown by the unknown builders of the middle decades of the last century, even in so modest a structure.

*Louis Stevens*

Louis Stevens - Author.

Approved

*Charles M. Stotz*

Charles M. Stotz  
District Officer PA 4

Date *Feb 15 1935*

*Reviewed 1936 by H.C.F.*